GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department - Prospecting license and drilling of 64 bore holes for diamond explorations covering over an extent of 153.11 Ha in different Reserve Forest areas of Ananthapur Division, in favour National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd., Hyderabad- Permission accorded - Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 295 **Dated: 05-12-2016**

Read the following:-

1. From PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Hyderabad Lr. Rc.No. 12218/2007/ FCA-2, Dated. 28-05-2015.
2. State Govt. letter No.2996/Section-II/2005, Dated: 15-7-2015
3. From GoI, MoEF& C.C, Lr.F No.8-63/2009-FC, Dated. 30-9-2016

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ORDER:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh in his letter 1st read above, has submitted a proposal for according approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for prospecting license and drilling of 64 bore holes for diamond explorations covering over an extent of 153.11 Ha in different Reserve Forest areas of Ananthapur Division, in favour National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd., Hyderabad and requested to forward the same to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change for according necessary approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. The said proposal was sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, for their approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide State Government letter 2nd read above.

3. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, vide their letter 3rd read above, have accorded approval for exploratory drilling of 64 bore holes for diamond explorations covering over an extent of 153.11 Ha in different Reserve Forest areas of Ananthapur Division, in favour National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd., Hyderabad, subject to compliance of certain conditions as stipulated therein.

4. Government after careful examination of the proposal, hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for exploratory drilling of 64 bore holes for diamond explorations covering over an extent of 153.11 Ha in different Reserve Forest areas of Ananthapur Division, in favour National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd., Hyderabad, subject to the following conditions:-

i. The User Agency shall be allowed exploratory drilling of a maximum of 64 numbers boreholes of 6 inch diameter @ 40 meter per hole for diamond explorations within 153.11 hectares of forest land;

ii. The activities to be undertaken by the user agency within the forest land for prospecting shall not result in felling of any tree;

iii. The samples collected during the prospecting shall be used purely for investigation purposes and shall in no case be used for trade or commerce purpose;

iv. To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, user agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Andhra Pradesh;

v. The State Forest Department shall deploy adequate staff to supervise the activities to be undertaken by user agency to prevent any damage to the flora

(especially the fresh regeneration), fauna and also to prevent felling of trees during drilling of holes and movement of equipment ;

vi. After completion of the prospecting all bore holes shall be completely filled up and the ground restored back to its original position;

vii. During transportation of Bore drilling Machine / rigs no new road/ permanent path in the forest area will be constructed.

viii. The validity of the extant approval shall be for a period of two years, which may however be extended under extra-ordinary circumstances, no specific recommendations of the State Government to enable the licensee to complete prospecting operations for a period co-terminus with the period of prospecting license granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended from time to time of Rules framed there under.

ix. The State Government and the user agency shall comply with any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;

x. This permission shall, in no way, confer any rights to the project proponents or any other agency for grant of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for mining or any other non-forestry use of the said forest land;

xi. The User Agency and the State Government shall comply the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines and relevant Hon'ble Court Order (s), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad is directed to take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)
Dr. P.V.RAMESH
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

Copy to:
The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Regional Office, 1st and 2nd Floors,
Handloom Export promotion Council Building
34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034.

The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd.,
Khanij Bhavan, 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad -500 028

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER